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PS01	Emma Harvey	Item: 10 Establishment of Committees 2022-23 and the Recommendation: To approve the composition of Committees for the 2022-23 municipal year
PS02	Rosemary Collins	Climate Crisis

## **STATEMENT PS 01**

**Submitted by Emma Harvey**

**Title: Item: 10 Establishment of Committees 2022-23 and the Recommendation: To approve the composition of Committees for the 2022-23 municipal year**

In a Bristol Post article 18 May, it was announced that a new cross-party working group will be set up to “thrash out the details” on how Bristol’s new committee-run council “by end of year”.

A 6mth timescale has been set to consult, discuss and set out plans for this new system. However, there are no details of this new group/committee provided.

As a resident and worker, I am interested to know who the 12 Councillors will be, how they've been selected and who do we contact to have our say? This is particularly important given the rapidity of the referendum process, which meant residents were given limited time in which to ask questions.

As part of shaping this new system, what wider consultation will take place? What will be the checks and balances to ensure individual wards or party interests are considered alongside those too often unheard in political debate? How will the new system adequately represent the interests of those who traditionally don't engage as part of committee structures, including those from Black, Asian, minority and/or lower socio-economic backgrounds?

One avenue offered is through mechanisms established by the City Office such as the Citizen Assembly, Youth Mayors and One City Boards that are attended voluntarily by some of the city's most dedicated charities, community and cultural leaders.

Much was done by some from the scrap the mayor side during the referendum process to discredit and dismiss these advisory platforms as "unelected bodies" serving “personal interests”. Now that the referendum outcome has been decided, I would strongly urge all Councillors to look beyond this limiting narrative and toward what opportunities consulting with these - as well as other advisory groups - has to offer to shape a committee system that speaks of the city as a sum of all its parts.

The One City approach means input is sought from some of the city's most valuable social justice warriors such as Dom Wood (1625 Independent People) who has been working within the field of youth homelessness in the city for over 25yr, Alex Raikes (Stand Against Racism & Inequality) who has dedicated her life's work to tackling racism and promoting equality and Karen Black (Off The Record) who has over 20yrs experience working to develop response services for young people with complex needs.

If these are the “personal interests” that are furthered by such approaches, I hope that ALL Councillors would agree with me in saying, let's find a way for them to continue to be furthered.

The spirit of a committee system was captured by campaigner Mary Page who said, “The campaign was about saying that the city belongs to us, all of us...and that means we must represent all the diverse views and communities across the city. It’s about how we work together.”

Democracy isn’t just one door but many open doors, and I hope that Councillors will find ways to ensure that from this point forward, we develop processes and mechanisms that provide us with both equality AND equity, so that together we’re able to continue our work in doing our best for this city that we all love and call home.

## **STATEMENT PS 02**

**Submitted by Rosemary Collins**

**Title: Climate Crisis**

I am hugely concerned about the ongoing and growing climate crisis and urge Bristol City Council to do all you can to make it a top priority. I note in the agenda for the extraordinary meeting a recommendation to establish a cross-party working group to develop the Committee model of governance and which will report back to Full Council before the end of 2022. I urge this committee to:

- Incorporate a requirement for Council to be informed by Citizen’s Assemblies as an integral part of the governance arrangements
- Ensure that all components of the governance model are explicitly assigned responsibility for addressing the climate and ecological emergency
- Develop decision-making guidelines that mandate that:
  - All decisions made by Council fully examine and transparently document the implications of the decision for carbon emissions in Bristol
  - Decisions are consistent with Council’s commitment to achieve a carbon neutral Bristol by 2030.

The 2021/22 Scrutiny Report notes for 22/23, “the need to ensure that scrutiny of matters in relation to climate change are given appropriate consideration”. I strongly endorse this recommendation and urge Council to alter the mandates for all committees to ensure that each committee must consider the climate and ecological emergency in carrying out its functions. Further, decisions made by each committee should include a clear statement of the implications of the decision for Bristol City Council’s commitment to deliver a carbon neutral Bristol by 2030.